

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

**Environmental Assessment of
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL**
Independence Avenue, SW at the Tidal Basin
Washington, DC



October 14, 2005

Action: The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), in adopting a prepared environmental document, announces the availability of the *Environmental Assessment for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, DC*. NCPC staff has examined and will adopt this document in conjunction with the upcoming proposed review of the project design from the National Park Service pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act of 1986, 40 U.S.C. 8905(a). This Environmental Assessment has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality by the National Park Service in July 2005.

Proposed Alternative: The proposed alternative calls for establishing and operating a memorial to Dr. King on a three-acre site within the triangular area bounded by Independence Avenue on the north, the pedestrian walkway of the Tidal Basin on the east, the FDR Memorial on the south, and recreational open space on the west. The proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is conceptually a landscape experience, using stone, water, and trees to convey the central themes of Dr. King's legacy. The major components of the proposed memorial concept include a central plaza partially enclosed by earthen berms, a symbolic entranceway, a large sculptural element, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation roadways and sidewalks. It also includes recommendations for lighting, and preservation of both historic and open space features near the Tidal Basin. The proposed alternative is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Potomac River and, therefore, is subject to flooding. The proposed project design will be consistent with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. Commission action on the proposal is tentatively scheduled for December 1, 2005.

A hardcopy of the Environmental Assessment will be available for public review beginning **October 17, 2005** at the National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street, NW, North Lobby, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004. An electronic copy of the Environmental Assessment is available on the "What's New" page of NCPC's website at www.ncpc.gov. An electronic version of the document is also available on the National Park Service's website at www.nps.gov/nacc/pphtml/documents.html.

Written comments on the Environmental Assessment may be submitted to NCPC until 5:30 pm on November 15, 2005. Comments and/or questions may be mailed to Mr. Eugene Keller, National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street, NW, Suite 500 North Lobby, Washington, DC 20004; faxed to (202) 482-7272; or emailed to gene.keller@ncpc.gov.